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RIDER OF THE STORM: RAJU GALLOPS INTO INDIA TEAM FOR ASIAN GAMES

The 18-year-old started as a cleaner at the Madhya Pradesh equestrian academy, where his uncle worked. He is part of Asiad team training in France

GROOMING AND CLEANING HORSES HELPED

Within a year after joining the academy as a groom, Raju Singh Bhadoria started getting to know the horses. His interest in riding took him to the saddle. He took part in a talent hunt programme organised by the state academy and was selected. Since Raju was cleaning and grooming the horses, his coach said, it helped during the trials | P15

YOUNGEST WITH GREAT EXPECTATION

- Raju is training with the India eventing team along with Apoorva Dabade, Vikas Kumar and Ashish Limaye. Rakesh Kumar and Ashish Malik are reserve riders. They will go to China from France
- He is among four riders who are expected to represent India at the Asian Games in eventing. At 18, he is also the youngest rider

₹1 CRORE

ACADEMY BOUGHT TWO HORSES FOR ₹1 CR FOR HIM TO TRAIN IN FRANCE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Congress yet to take its call on strategy against Delhi ordinance

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

IN what is seen as a big consolidation of Opposition forces against the BJP, the Congress on Monday said an Opposition meeting will take place in a day or two. However, the Congress is yet to take its call on an ordinance promulgated by the Centre last week to wrest control over transfers and postings of officers in the Kejriwal government, after the Supreme Court ruled in the AAP's favour.

As the ordinance became another rallying point for non-BJP parties, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi here.

Addressing the media, Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal said that the venue and date of the Opposition meeting will be announced in a day or two.

While Kejriwal urged all Opposition parties to together defeat the ordinance in the Rajya Sabha, Venugopal said the Congress will consult its state units and other like-minded parties on the matter before taking the call. "The party believes in the rule of law and at the same time does not condone unnecessary confrontation, political witch-hunt and campaigns based on lies against political opponents by any political party," Venugopal said.

To win the number game, the Opposition will have to get the support of the BJD and YSR Congress, which have nine MPs in Rajya Sabha each.

PROBE SOON?

'Stop work on all projects of BJP govt'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE state government has directed heads of various departments to stop work on all development projects and withhold release of funds/payments for the work executed with immediate effect. As per the instruction of CM Siddaramaiah, work on all projects and schemes implemented by the previous BJP government should be stopped immediately.

The finance secretary has issued a circular to the secretaries, additional secretaries and other officers of all government departments, boards and corporations. They have also been instructed not to implement the new projects approved by the BJP government.

On Sunday, Minister MB Patil said corruption charges against the previous government will be probed.

CM Siddaramaiah at Vidhana Soudha on Monday | BASAVARAJ GADEGAL

Bommai hits back at Cong govt over graft

BENGALURU: Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai has challenged the Congress government to prove the 40% commission charge against the previous gover-nment headed by him.Bommai's reaction comes in the wake of Minister MB Patil's statement that the 40% commission charge and other allegations of corruption against the previous BJP government will be probed.

Siddu CM for 5 yrs: MB Patil

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

CONGRESS leader MB Patil, who was sworn in as Cabinet minister on Saturday, dropped a bombshell on Monday stating that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will be CM for five years. Speaking after visiting Shivaratri Deshikendra Swamy at Suttur Mutt here, Patil said there were no talks on power-sharing between Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar. "The CM will not be changed after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. There has been no discussion on CM change at the AICC level. AICC general secretary Venugopal has already clarified that Siddaramaiah will be Karnataka's CM for five years," he said. He also reiterated that all scams during the BJP rule will be probed.

₹2K note exchange begins today

Banks make adequate arrangements; no plan to reintroduce ₹1,000 notes, says RBI guv

SACHIN KUMAR @ Mumbai

A day before the Reserve Bank of India opens the window for exchange of ₹2,000 denomination currency notes, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday dismissed rumours of a new ₹1,000 currency note being in the works. "There's no such proposal right now," he told reporters here on Monday in his first media interaction after the decision to withdraw the highest denomination note from circulation last Friday.

As the window for customers to exchange ₹2,000 notes in their possession will start on Tuesday, Das said there is no need to panic. Urging the public not to rush to banks, he said enough time has been given to exchange the notes. He reiterated the notes will remain legal tender (valid for transaction).

The RBI governor's comments came after reports said people and businesses have stopped accepting ₹2,000 notes as a mode of payment.

"Let me clarify and re-emphasise that it is a part of the currency management operations of the Reserve Bank. For a long time, the Reserve Bank has been following a clean note policy," he said, adding: "From time to time, RBI withdraws notes of a particular series and issues fresh notes. We are withdrawing the ₹2,000 notes from circulation but they continue as legal tender."

He expects most of the notes to be returned to the exchequer by the deadline of September 30 and no scarcity of other notes. "We have given a deadline so that the process will be taken seriously. We can't leave it open-ended," he said.

GEARING UP TO MANAGE THE BIG RUSH

- Banks to provide suitable facilities to customers
- Special provision for crowd management at branches
- No form to be filled for exchanging or deposit of ₹2,000 notes
- Banks will maintain daily data on notes exchanged and deposited
- There will be separate counters for exchange and deposits of ₹2,000 notes

RBI has urged the public to exchange or deposit these notew by September 30. "We have more than adequate quantities of printed notes already available in the system, not just with RBI but with currency chests operated by banks. There is no reason for worry. We have sufficient stocks, no need to worry," Das clarified.

The impact of the withdrawal on the economy will be "very very marginal", he said, adding ₹2,000 currency notes made up for just 10.8% of the total currency in circulation.

While the withdrawn ₹2,000 rupee notes can either be deposited in bank accounts or exchanged for other denomination notes, banks have been advised to make necessary arrangements for exchange. P13

INDIAN KURAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Papua New Guinea counterpart James Marape launch a translation of the Tamil treatise *Thirukkural* in Tok Pisin language of Papua New Guinea, in Port Moresby | PTI

UT Khader to be the next Speaker

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

MANGALURU MLA UT Khader will file his nomination for the Speaker's post on Tuesday, and his election in a House where Congress has absolute majority is a foregone conclusion, sources said.

If elected, 53-year-old Khader will be the youngest Speaker of the Assembly and first Muslim. He won from the Mangaluru constituency, previously called Ullal and Boliyar, for the fifth time with a convincing margin of 23,799 votes.

Khader told *TNIE*, "Party president Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC general secretary Karnataka in-charge Randeep Surjewala spoke to me over phone." The Speakers' election will be held on Wednesday, and there is very little chance of an opposition member getting elected. P4

China bid to strengthen infra, connectivity in Middle Sector

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

AMIDST protracted tensions along the Line of Actual Control, China is continuing to strengthen its infrastructure and connectivity in the comparatively peaceful Middle Sector. As high density troop deployment from both sides continues in Eastern Ladakh, India is also strengthening its infrastructure and defences.

Sources on Monday confirmed that the Chinese side is focusing on air connectivity at the People's Liberation Army (PLA) camps. Apart from realignment and construction of a new link road, helipads are coming up at Sarang, Poling and Jindu (opposite Niti Pass).

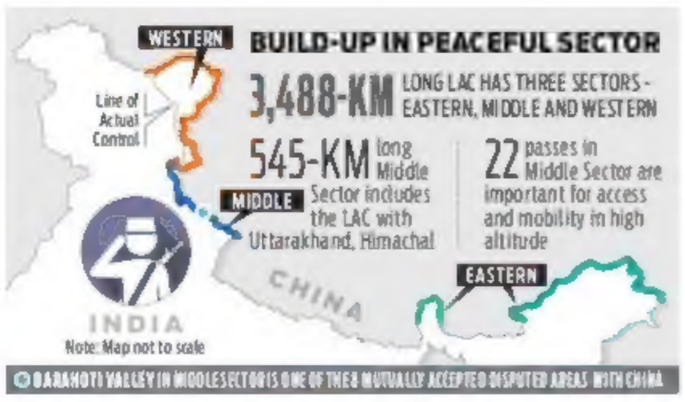
A new PLA camp near Niti Pass has also been spotted, sources said. Niti Pass was an ancient trading route between India and Tibet. It has remained closed since the 1962 war with China.

Sources said helipads will help in quick deployment and improved supply for Chinese troops in the area.

The Chinese are also constructing border settlement villages with one coming up at a place 45 km off Tholing, across the Middle Sector, with a likely military complex close to the village. Work at both the locations is nearing completion.

Speaking on the Chinese infrastructure build up, defence analyst Maj Gen Sudhakar Jee (Retd) said China wants to tire India down through strategic encirclement. "Besides raising the cost of enhanced troops, China is activating dormant sectors like the Middle Sector to tire down India and force it to post additional troops and cause imbalance in its national security strategy," he opined.

The Indian side is also pushing for troop and infrastructure beef-up, including along the Middle Sector. This necessitated the re-organisation of troops along with positioning arms and equipment and commensurate infrastructure. P9


BUILD-UP IN PEACEFUL SECTOR
WESTERN
MIDDLE
EASTERN
Line of Actual Control
3,488-KM LONG LAC HAS THREE SECTORS - EASTERN, MIDDLE AND WESTERN
545-KM long Middle Sector includes the LAC with Uttarakhand, Himachal
22 passes in Middle Sector are important for access and mobility in high altitude
INDIA
CHINA
Note: Map not to scale
BARAHOTI VALLEY IN MIDDLE SECTOR IS ONE OF THE 8 MUTUALLY ACCEPTED DISPUTED AREAS WITH CHINA

Man washed away in Bengaluru rain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE heavy rain that lashed the city on Sunday claimed another life. The body of a man, who was washed away in an open stormwater drain around 4 pm, was found around 7 pm in the rajakaluve at Byatarayanapura. However, the incident came to light on Monday. The victim, Lokesh R (31), was a housekeeping staffer at GT Mall and was living with his mother and two siblings at KP Agrahara.

In another tragedy, a 22-year-old woman, an employee of Infosys, died after the car in which she was travelling got stuck in the flooded KR Circle underpass. In Lokesh's case, it is said that he went too close to the drain to see how heavy the water flow was, but slipped and fell in. Residents of the locality advised Lokesh not to get too close to the drain, but he did not heed their advice, sources said. When Lokesh did not come home till late in the evening, neighbours launched a search operation for him. P2

COPS BOOK BBMP OFFICIALS, CABBIE FOR WOMAN'S DEATH

Halasuru Gate police booked BBMP officials and the cab driver for causing death by negligence, of the 22-year-old woman who died after the a car drowned in rainwater at KR Circle in Bengaluru underpass on Sunday. Police arrested the taxi driver Harish Gowda on Monday.

Constables should write officers' ACRs: Praveen Sood

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

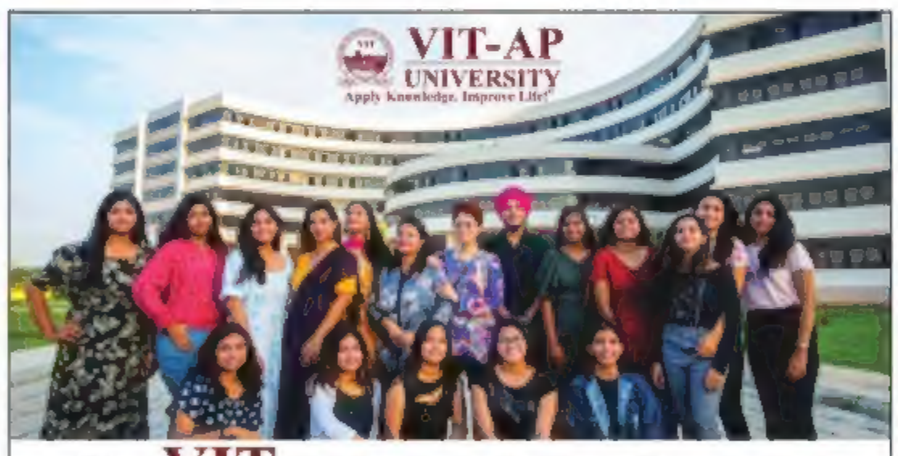
FORMER DG&IGP and CBI Director-designate Praveen Sood reached out to the nearly one-lakh-strong police force in Karnataka with a personal note of gratitude on Monday, the day he handed over charge to his successor and incharge DG&IGP Alok Mohan.

"Constables are the best judges of officers," wrote the former head of police force (HOPF) asking IPS officers "not to wait to occupy a particular position to make institutional improvements. Each position gives us an opportunity to contribute towards the growth of the force. In fact, low profile jobs give one better space to make systemic changes. Media may not notice it, but an average constable does. They are the best judges of officers. I wait for the day when subordinates and not immediate superior could write one's ACR (annual confidential record)," penned Sood.

He candidly described the nature of work as HOPF -- the highest post an IPS officer can reach in his cadre state. "In fact as HOPF, if something I can boast about, it was my role as chief scavenging officer. Old vehicles, dilapidated buildings, old records, junk.. all were disposed of. Incidentally, it also brought money to the exchequer. Scavenging was not restricted only to physical garbage. Old procedures, practices and protocols which had outlived the test of time and utility were given a silent burial," wrote Sood. P3

Outgoing DG&IGP Praveen Sood (left) hands over the baton to his successor Alok Mohan in Bengaluru on Monday | BASAVARAJ GADEGAL

> I wait for the day when immediate subordinates and not immediate superior could write one's ACR — Praveen Sood, former DG&IGP



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Phase-5: 13-06-2023 to 14-06-2023 (Rank : More than 1 Lakh)

HIGHLIGHTS
Ranked #1 among Emerging State Private Universities in India (Outlook University Ranking 2022)
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Data for 2023 Graduating Batch

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